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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Consumer Alert: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and Attorney General's Office Warn Consumers About Paying Utility Bills at CashPoint Locations

The State of New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission and Attorney

General's Office issued a statement today warning consumers that utility bill payments

may not reach their utility company if the consumer uses CashPoint to make payment.

The Commission and the Attorney General's Office advised consumers today to contact their utility to verify that utility bill payments made using CashPoint Network Services, Inc., a New York-based bill processor in bankruptcy, have been received by the utility and credited to the customer's account.

CashPoint transmits bill payments for consumers to electric, gas and telephone companies through automated teller machines (ATMs) or at neighborhood stores. The company was placed in bankruptcy last week by five creditors who claim the company

failed to send more than \$28 million in bill payments. The total amount of missing bill payments is now estimated at \$100 million.

Utility companies that have accepted payments through the CashPoint system include Verizon, KeySpan, PSNH, and Granite State Electric, however, it is possible that other companies may have accepted payments made through the CashPoint systems as well.

Some companies have assured customers that they will credit lost payments upon proof of payment or receipt, however, the Commission and Attorney General's Office urge consumers who have made recent payments through CashPoint to contact their utility company directly to determine what their utility company's policy is.

Additionally, those consumers who have made recent payments through CashPoint should hold on to their receipts until they have verified that their utility company has credited their account for the payment. Consumers who have questions or difficulties with their utility bill as a result of a CashPoint payment may contact the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-852-3793.